



# DAIRYINFO

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*Taking service to another level!*

## **Time to start planning for spring!**

With the 2014 harvest either completed or still underway, it is time to turn our thoughts toward next spring. What hybrids will you plant? Of the many available hybrids, along with traits and treatments (or conventional), which are the best for your operation - agronomically, climatically and nutritionally?

What you plant is ultimately an investment in your ration program. It has a direct impact on how well your cows perform, and directly correlates to your farm's productivity and profitability! If you are accustomed to purchasing seed without investigating the many [other] important features available with today's hybrids, your cows may not be getting what is best for them. I'd like to introduce you to hybrids that are developed and research-tested for results. This includes grain and dual-purpose hybrids, silage-specific hybrids, BMR hybrids – those hybrids that have an excellent track record of producing results both in the field and in your rations. These hybrids can help your cows **MAKE MILK!**

Before purchasing seed this fall (for 2015), let me review what is available and how selected hybrids can meet your needs and goals. Check out the details and make a good investment that will pay dividends in the future. I can also recommend hybrids that work well together, since it is advisable to plant more than one variety on any given farm. Call me today.

## **W-S FEED... *quality & service!*** **Products for Results!**

### **Principles of Milking—Where Quality Matters**

According to numerous research trials, the incidence of mastitis and somatic cell counts (SCC) have shown a marginal decrease in several states over the past couple of years (APHIS – July 2013); however, this continues to be a concern both nationally and internationally. The impact of an increase in SCC can also be noted with herd milk productivity and profitability. Weather can also be a contributing factor in the increase of mastitis or SCC. These factors, as well as a decrease in the quality and quantity of milk, can often be attributed to a failure to implement good milking practices. Quality milk is always the goal. The more we strive to improve our practices and procedures for milking... the better the end result. Any reduction in mastitis and SCC on the farm can improve the overall economics of the entire operation. Consider these ideas in your program:

1. Use a quality antibiotic treatment on ALL quarters of ALL cows at the time of drying them off. Common practice has sometimes been directed toward quarters and cows with higher counts and past problems. However, in trials done in California, when all cows were treated there was a substantial increase in milk output per cow! Starting them off right in the dry period

has a lot of merit in the next lactation cycle. (Prichard, NC State University).

2. Check to see how effective your teat dip is! Dilution of many dips may be affected by the quality of the water on your farm. It might be a good idea to have your water analyzed. Ask your chemical representative for advice. You may want to switch to a concentrated dip all the time.
3. Make sure all milking equipment is properly sanitized. This will help to prevent the spread of infection and ensure continuing milk quality.
4. Make sure the bedding surfaces in your barn are cleaned regularly. This is both a cow comfort and health issue. Improperly cleaned facilities can harbor harmful bacteria, which can lead to numerous problems and losses. Sand is a recommended bedding material, when possible.
5. Increase parlor throughput rates: having cleaner cows when they enter the parlor because the housing areas and lots are kept clean; handling cows more gently so they don't withhold milk because of nervousness or fear; ensure the milking equipment is operating properly; use proper udder preparation/stimulation methods that promote rapid and complete milk let-down; eliminate machine stripping; group cows that require special care at milking times.
6. When purchasing cows singularly or in a group, check out the SCC and mastitis history for each animal. Vaccination records are also important. This can give you an idea of the type of management they have been exposed to.

Ensuring good herd health, along with quality production and profitability are important. Take time to evaluate your milking practices today. If you want assistance in reviewing these items and issues, let me know. Working together, we can help to reduce the incidence of mastitis and SCC and maintain quality milk and a healthy herd.



## **PREPARE FOR SPRING PLANTING! ORDER SOON & SAVE.**

*Interested in discussing topics in this newsletter, or want to do a better job feeding and managing your cows? Call me! My goal is to help you.  
Our goal and commitment is to help you!*

**VOLUME 4 – Number 10 – October 2014**  
**W-S Feed... the team for Results!**

## Top 10 Reasons to Deworm Your Herd...

An important task on any dairy farm is maintaining herd health. That's why parasite control should rank high on your priority list. Here are 10 ways a parasite control strategy can help lead to a healthier future for your herd. Fall is an ideal time to pursue this opportunity:

- **It starts with immunity.** It's hard to recognize the immune status of cattle just by sight, but better immunity means healthier animals. Healthy cattle have a great...
- **Appetite.** Imagine a stomach full of worms... GONE! What a relief! Happy, hungry cattle eat more freely and have better...
- **Feed efficiency.** Fewer worms in the lining of the abomasum and intestine mean that these organs ultimately can function better. The easier it is to transfer nutrients from the feed to the animal, the easier it is to...
- **Improve weight gain.** Weight gain dictates a lot of the normal immune, metabolic and reproductive processes in the bovine body. If a replacement heifer gains weight easily, this can lead to...
- **Earlier breeding.** According to Cornell University, the benchmark age to reach breeding weight should be younger than 15 months. If not, you suffer the double penalty of extra rearing costs and decreased lifetime production. Avoid the double whammy. Start to...
- **Milk early.** The sooner a heifer has her first calf, the sooner she is no longer a 'feed bill liability', but rather an asset making...
- **More milk.** It is estimated that she will give 1,775 lbs. *more* milk on her first lactation if she weighs more than 1,250 lbs. after her first calving. This can result in...
- **Fewer culls resulting from late calvers.** This will help save on culling costs/replacement expenses. If a first-calf heifer calves late, she becomes an annual target to cull, as she will always have difficulty getting ahead of the curve. Staying ahead requires...
- **Weight stabilization.** It takes a lot of energy and resources in the form of feed and animal tissue to produce the milk quantities we demand of today's dairy herds. Cattle must stabilize their weight to support efforts to cycle and settle a pregnancy. Parasitism can delay this process and rob your ability to...
- **Maximize profits.** Improve breeding efficiency in the herd by decreasing feed input costs and improving weight gains (due to better feed efficiency). This can lead to a more sustainable product, which can lead to great things like yogurt, cheese and ice cream. A world with less worms and more ice cream is a great place!

Contact me today for recommendations and to reduce the impact of parasites! This is ideal for your replacement heifers and other cattle.

*(Edited from Dairy Herd Management – Dr. T Moravec)*



**RENAISSANCE  
NUTRITION**



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# OCTOBER 2014

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## CHECK IT OUT!